



PATENT

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

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The following is a clean version of the entire set of pending claims (unamended claims appear in smaller print). In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), attached is a marked up version of claims containing the newly introduced changes. The attached page is captioned **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**.

Please amend the claims as follows:

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- 1 1. **(Amended)** An apparatus for switching packets from a network, the
2 apparatus comprising:
3 an ingress receiver that receives packets from the network ("inbound
4 packets"), said packets being destined for an associated output queue;
5 a switch fabric coupled to receive said inbound packets from the ingress
6 receiver; and
7 an output traffic manager coupled to receive packets from the switch
8 fabric ("outbound packets"), wherein
9 the output traffic manager includes at least one queue,
10 the output traffic manager selectively stores outbound packets into
11 a selected queue and selectively drops outbound packets when the selected
12 queue is at a certain fullness level, and
13 approximately when the output traffic manager drops outbound
14 packets or is about to drop said outbound packets, the output traffic
15 manager communicates to the ingress receiver to drop inbound packets
16 destined for the selected queue.
- 1 2. **(Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager
2 identifies at least a designation of imminently droppable or dropped outbound packets,
3 and wherein the ingress receiver drops inbound packets based on the designation.
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1 3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said designation comprises a port
2 address to the network.

1 4. **(Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the designation comprises
2 a class of service.

1 5. **(Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the designation comprises
2 a virtual private network.

1 6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager issues a
2 cease drop command to the ingress receiver to discontinue inbound packet drop.

1 7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the ingress receiver discontinues
2 inbound packet drop after a predetermined time.

1 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager uses the
2 switch fabric to communicate to the ingress receiver to drop inbound packets.

1 9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager uses a
2 dedicated communications bus to communicate to the ingress receiver to drop inbound
3 packets.

1 10. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ingress
2 receivers coupled to receive packets from the network and coupled to the switch fabric,
3 wherein the output traffic manager communicates to the plurality of ingress receivers to
4 drop inbound packets.

1 11. **(Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the output traffic
2 manager identifies a designation of imminently droppable or dropped outbound packets
3 and wherein the plurality of ingress receivers drop inbound packets having the
4 designation.

1 12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the output traffic manager issues a
2 cease drop command to the plurality of ingress receivers to discontinue inbound packet
3 drop.

1 13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the output traffic manager uses the
2 switch fabric to communicate to the plurality of ingress receivers to drop inbound packets
3 and cease dropping inbound packets.

1 14. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the output traffic manager uses a
2 dedicated communications bus to communicate to the plurality of ingress receivers to
3 drop inbound packets and cease dropping inbound packets.

1 15. A method of reducing packet traffic through a switching fabric, the
2 method comprising:
3 receiving packets from a network ("inbound packets");
4 transmitting each packet to the switching fabric;
5 selectively queuing packets from the switching fabric;
6 detecting imminent or active dropping of packets ("dropped packets") due
7 to a queue being full;
8 signaling to drop inbound packets destined for said queue; and
9 dropping inbound packets destined for said queue.

1 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said signaling further comprises
2 communicating a designation of the dropped packets.

1 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein dropping further comprises dropping
2 inbound packets that are the same designation as the dropped packets.

1 18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the designation comprises a port address
2 to the network.

1 19. The method of Claim 16, wherein the designation comprises a class of
2 service.

1 20. The method of Claim 16, wherein the designation comprises a virtual
2 private network.

1 21. The method of Claim 15, further comprising issuing a cease drop
2 command to discontinue inbound packet drop.

1 22. The method of Claim 15, further comprising discontinuing inbound packet
2 dropping after a predetermined time.

1 23. A set of computer instructions in a tangible medium, said instructions for
2 controlling a device to carry out the following steps:
3 receiving packets from a network (“inbound packets”);
4 transmitting each packet to a switching fabric;
5 selectively queuing packets from the switching fabric;
6 detecting imminent or active dropping of packets (“dropped packets”) due
7 to a queue being full;
8 signaling to drop inbound packets destined for said queue; and
9 dropping inbound packets destined for said queue.